

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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September 22, 2004

The Honorable John H. Marburger III
Director
Office of Science and Technology Policy
The White House
Washington, DC 20502

Dear Dr. Marburger:

Important policy decisions on the S&T workforce continue to be made on the basis of very little data. In June of this year, RAND Science and Technology issued a report, *The U.S. Scientific and Technical Workforce: Improving Data for Decisionmaking*. This report, prepared for your Office, recommends that Federal agencies take eight priority actions to improve data collection on the S&T workforce. With the increased off-shoring of technical jobs, along with perennial recommendations for the training of more U.S. scientists and engineers, we believe that the RAND recommendations merit a rapid and serious response.

As pointed out in the RAND report, the information available to policymakers, and to students and professional workers, is not adequate to make informed decisions either about policies for the S&T workforce or about individual career or training opportunities. This is not a new problem. We have been aware of the inadequacy of S&T workforce data for some time and in fact proposed an amendment to H.R. 3598 earlier this year to deal with these issues. Unfortunately, it appears that the 108th Congress will adjourn without taking action on our amendment.

Given the importance of these issues, we would like to know what specific actions your Office or the Administration has taken or plans to take regarding the RAND recommendations. Please provide us with a description of your plans by October 1, 2004.

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We look forward to your response and to working with you on this issue, and we welcome your cooperation in implementing the RAND recommendations as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,



BART GORDON
Ranking Democratic Member
Committee on Science



JERRY F. COSTELLO
Democratic Member
Committee on Science